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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 29 December 1992 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Office of the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and has the honour to enclose, herewith, a message addressed to the Commission on Human Rights by the Iranian Women's Social and Cultural Council concerning the situation of women and children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It would be most grateful if the United Nations Centre for Human Rights would submit the aforementioned message to the Commission on Human Rights.

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Situation of women and children in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. The world today witnesses the Serbian ferocious atrocities against Muslim women and children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Having shouldered the great responsibility to address the ongoing crimes, which have rarely been seen in history, the international organizations still remain blocked on what could be done to curb Serbian aggression and to alleviate the sufferings of the Muslim people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. As the media report, nearly 50,000 women were frequently raped by the Serbian forces and a large number of other Bosnian women are also taken to death camps in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

4. Those who were exposed to rape are now going through a terrible life. Children are either beheaded or burnt alive in front of their mothers and widows are driven by the aggressive forces without any humanitarian organization paying them attention.

5. The crucial question is whether mass murder, genocide and ethnic cleansing are regarded as a crime against humanity and humanitarian law. Do the international organizations hold themselves responsible for the downtrodden people of Bosnia and Herzegovina? Have the International Conventions on Human Rights, which are currently ratified by almost all countries, lost their legitimacy and applicability?

6. Regrettably, despite the fact that human dignity, lofty ideals and also women's basic human rights were elegantly praised in the Charter of the United Nations, yet women, the origin of civilization in all generations, are subjected to outrageous hatred and inhuman treatment and also behold the heart-rending death of their children in total disillusionment.

7. The Women's Social and Cultural Council, shouldering the revival of women's Islamic values, deems itself responsible to bring to the awareness of Muslim women the plots and ill-intentions of the enemies of mankind and to encourage them to model themselves on the revolutionary women in Iran, to keep rising against global arrogance and enthusiastically defend women's great honour and dignity throughout the world.

8. We expect the Commission on Human Rights to protect, as its foremost responsibility, the human rights of the Bosnian victims and take enforcement measures to prevent ongoing atrocities against women, children and elderly people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.